

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 2

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 14 of page 8 and ending with line 21 of page 8 with the following amended paragraph.

--As shown in Figs. 3-6, in the illustrated furniture system 1, posts 3 include an X-shaped post 3a and a Y-shaped post 3b, which are substantially identical in construction. X-shaped post 3a has a cruciform plan shape defined in part by a central portion, and four, substantially identical, mutually perpendicular outwardly extending flanges 4a extending outwardly from the central portion, each of which has a flat end face 10a with a single vertical slot 5a extending centrally therealong. As best illustrated in Fig. 7, each of the slots 5 has a generally T-shaped lateral cross-sectional configuration with an enlarged interior track portion 11 and a reduced neck portion 12 which opens outwardly. The illustrated posts 3 have a hollow interior 13 with inwardly projecting reinforcing ribs 14, and an end web 54 in each flange 4 that defines the base of slot 5.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 1 of page 13 and ending with line 16 of page 13 with the following amended paragraph.

--To attach the end of a beam 2 to an associated post 3, a beam-to-post connector 6 is attached to the end 40 of the beam 2 in the manner described hereinabove using fasteners 62. The post-to-beam connector 6 is then inserted into the slot 5 at the uppermost end of post 3, and slid vertically downwardly until stop 68 abuts the top surface of post 3, thereby positioning

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 3

beam 2 in proper alignment with post 3. As best shown in Figs. 26 and 27, the width of each beam 3 is substantially commensurate with the width of the flanges 4a of posts 3, such that the same mate in a flush relationship. A pair of T-fasteners 74 (Fig. 24A) are then assembled on post-to-beam connector 6 to securely mount the beam 2 on post 3 as described below. Each of the T-fasteners 74 (Fig. 24A) has a screw 75 with a threaded shank portion that is received in an associated one of the horizontal fastener apertures 66 and 67 in upper and lower key portions 64 and 65 of post-to-beam connector 6. Each of the T-fasteners 74 also includes a T-nut 76 which is shaped to be closely received in the post slot 5, and includes a central threaded aperture 77 in which the free end of the fastener screw 75 is threadedly received. The illustrated T-nut 76 has a substantially square plan configuration, with beveled outer edges 78 that facilitate insertion into post slot 5. The illustrated screws 75 are in the form of allen head bolts, and include a cylindric head 79 with a tool receiving recess 80 in the outer end thereof. The tightening of bolts 75 draws the end of the beam 2 and the associated post 3 together to securely, yet detachably, interconnect the same.--